

CANYON
MOUNTAIN SAVANNAH
RANGE SITE DESCRIPTION

Land Resource Area Trans Pecos

Location _____

Date January 1978

1. TOPOGRAPHY AND ELEVATION: This site occurs as moderately sloping fans and terraces of stony outwash material derived from igneous mountains in narrow mountain valleys. Slopes are mainly 5 to 16 percent. Elevations range from 6,000 to 7,500 feet.

2. SOILS:

- a. Soils are deep, well drained, rolling, noncalcareous gravelly loams. Permeability is moderately rapid with good plant-soil-air-moisture relationship. Runoff is medium to rapid. Available water capacity is low. Water erosion hazard is moderate.

- b. Some soil taxonomic units which characterize this site are:

Loghouse association, rolling

- c. Specific site location:

3. CLIMAX VEGETATION:

- a. The climax vegetation consists of an overstory of pine, oaks, and juniper; ponderosa pine is dominant. Some woody shrubs occur in the mid-layer understory, and the herbaceous ground layer is dominantly shade tolerant species of bunchgrasses.

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CANYON SITE, MS

RELATIVE PERCENTAGE

Grasses	57%	Woody	40%	Forbs	3%
Plains lovegrass		Ponderosa	25	Asters	1
N.M. bluestem	15	Emory oak		Noseburn	1
Texas bluestem		Gray oak	10	Dayflower	
Bulb panicum		Other oaks		Plantain	1
Sideoats grama	10	Alligator juniper		Ferns	T
Cane bluestem		Pinyon	5	Other forbs	
Blue grama		Apacheplume			
Finestem stipa		Texas madrone	T		
Pinyon ricegrass	17				
N. M. Stipa					
Bull muhly					
Pine muhly	10				
Purple muhly					
Green sprangletop	5				
Hall's panicum					
Wolftail	T				
Annual grasses	T				

- b. When retrogression is caused by cattle or horses, there is a reduction in such grasses as bull muhly, Texas and New Mexico bluestems, bulb panicum, and plains lovegrass and an increase in pine muhly, pinyon rice grass and oaks. Excessive browsing by deer, goats, and sheep results in a decrease of mountain mahogany, foresteria, Texas madrone and oaks. Man made retrogression caused by reducing woody overstory will increase the production of herbaceous plants, especially warm season bunchgrasses and decrease the production of cool season and shade tolerant species.
- c. This site in excellent condition produces approximately 2,500 pounds air-dry herbage per acre in years with favorable growing conditions and about 1,700 pounds per acre in years with poor growing conditions.
4. WILDLIFE NATIVE TO THE SITE: This site is used primarily by deer, but quail and dove are common.
5. ESTHETICS AND RELATED VALUES: This site is nestled in the valleys of the higher mountains and has a forest appearance. Few colorful forbs are found that catch the eye. The beauty of this site is derived from the rugged mountains surrounding it and the tall Ponderosa pines.

6. HYDROLOGIC CHARACTERISTICS: Runoff from this site can be high because of steep slopes. Runoff from unprotected ground causes significant sheet, rill, and gull erosion. However, in climax condition adequate vegetative cover aids in preventing excessive erosion.

7. GUIDE TO INITIAL STOCKING RATE:

<u>a. Condition Class</u>	<u>Climax Vegetation</u>	<u>Ac/AU/YL</u>	<u>AU/Sec/YL</u>
Excellent	76-100	32-42	15-20
Good	51-75	43-55	12-15
Fair	26-50	56-75	8-12
Poor	0-25	75+	8

- b. This site is not applicable for range seeding.

RELATIVE FORAGE QUALITY OF SPECIES 1/

A. Cattle

<u>Primary</u>	<u>Secondary</u>	<u>Low Value</u>
New Mexico bluestem	Finestem stipa	Wolftail
Texas bluestem	Pinyon ricegrass	Oaks
Cane bluestem	Pine muhly	Juniper
Sideoats grama	Purple muhly	Most annual grasses
Green sprangletop	Bull muhly	
Blue grama		
Plains lovegrass		
Bulb panicum		

B. Goats and Deer

<u>Primary</u>	<u>Secondary</u>	<u>Low Value</u>
Oak	Juniper	Most other grasses
Apacheplume	Pinyon	
Texas madrone	Plains lovegrass	
Dayflower	Green sprangletop	
Asters	Sideoats grama	
Plantain	Blue grama	
Most other forbs	Hall's panicum	

C. Dove and Quail

<u>Primary</u>	<u>Secondary</u>	<u>Low Value</u>
Hard seed:	Small hard seeds of:	Fluffy grass seed
Forbs	Grasses	
Grasses		
Mast of Oaks		

1/ Definitions of terms and an explanation of interpretations is given on a separate page which is attached or submitted with each group of range site descriptions.